

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 07852 302146Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /060 W

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R 302115Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1573

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7852

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US

SUBJ: "EL MERCURIO" CRITICIZES AMBASSADOR

REF: SANTIAGO 6873

1. UNDER HEADING, "WHAT DOES THE US AMBASSADOR SAY," EL MERCURIO DECEMBER 28 CARRIED LETTER TO EDITOR CRITICAL OF AMBASSADOR FROM INDIVIDUAL UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY. LETTER CITED NEWS ITEM DATELINED WASHINGTON WHICH APPEARED EL MERCURIO DECEMBER 13 ASSERTING FORD ADMINISTRATION'S "GROWING UNHAPPINESS WITH CHILEAN JUNTA" TO POINT THAT "PATIENCE WITH THE JUNTA IS RUNNING OUT." WRITER ASKS WHAT AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN CHILE IS TELLING HIS GOVERNMENT TO PRODUCE THESE EFFECTS. LETTER CONCLUDES ASKING: "IS IT THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT PAY ATTENTION TO THE AMBASSADOR? OR IS IT THAT THE AMBASSADOR SUPPORTS THE POSITION OF THOSE WHO ARE AGAINST THE JUNTA?"

2. COMMENT. THIS LETTER IS OF COURSE FAR FROM A MAJOR BROADSIDE AGAINST USG OR THIS EMBASSY. NEVERTHELESS ITS PUBLICATION IS SIGNIFICANT. PUBLICATION IS PLAINLY RESULT OF TOP LEVEL EDITORIAL DECISION AT "EL MERCURIO", NOT ONLY CHILE'S LEADING NEWSPAPER AND A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE CHILEAN ESTABLISHMENT BUT THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORTER OF THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT.

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3. PUBLICATION OF LETTER ALSO SIGNIFICANT AS SECOND TIME (SEE REFTTEL) IN JUST OVER A MONTH AT "EL MERCURIO" HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF USG. AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR UNDER THE NEW JUNTA GOVERNMENT, DURING WHICH CRITICISM OF USG AND THIS EMBASSY WAS ALMOST TOTALLY ABSENT FROM CHILEAN MEDIA, UNDOUBTEDLY IN KEEPING WITH GOC POLICY, THESE CRITICISMS ASSUME GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY THEIR CONTENT ALONE.

4. ALTHOUGH, FOR NOW, "EL MERCURIO" ACTION REPRESENTS A CLOUD NO BIGGER THAN A MON'S HAND, IT MAY BE A PORTENT OF THINGS TO COME AND A SUGGESTION THAT CHILEAN SENSITIVITY IS INCREASING.

POPPER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, JUNTA, AMBASSADORS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Date:** 10 SEP 2002  
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